



Morning Highlights

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Morning Highlights 2008-44

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ALASKA FIRE UPDATE

Ten new wildland fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center on Sunday, July 6. Eight were caused by lightning and two were human-caused. Only two of the fires are staffed. So far this year 267 fires have been reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center and have burned 24,912 acres statewide.

NEW LIGHTNING-CAUSED

The Chicken Creek Fire was reported by several motorists on the Parks Highway that reported seeing a lightning strike and flames at mile 263. A Division of Forestry aircraft went to check the fire and found it at four acres and very active. Helitack was launched plus an engine and initial attack firefighter squads. Upon arrival, helitack reported the fire as 3.5 acres and smoldering with very little activity because it had received precipitation. It was contained at 3:00 a.m. and is expected to be completely controlled around noon today.

The Morgan Fire is located about ¼ mile east of Fairbanks, on the south side of the Tanana River, burning on Military land. It is approximately one acre in size. It is burning in a Limited Fire Management Area and is being monitored. Smoke from the fire is visible in Fairbanks.

The Colleen River Fire is located approximately 50 miles northeast of Chalkyitsik. It is about 2 acres in size burning in black and white spruce. It is being monitored.

The Little Creek fire is located approximately 40 miles northwest of Chalkyitsik. It is under an acre in size and creeping. It is being monitored.

In addition to fires already burning in the area, the southwest portion of Alaska got several new fires from lightning strikes Sunday. One of the new fires is staffed. A smokejumper aircraft (jumpship) reported two fires en route to McGrath; one a .3 acre fire that had no action taken on it, and a six acre fire that six smokejumpers responded to. They will be demobed, or released, today. The same jumpship later checked on a 1.5 acre fire that had been reported to the Kenai Flight Service Station. While returning from its recon mission, it reported another 10 acre fire.

NEW HUMAN-CAUSED

A .1 acre fire from an abandoned campfire in a private camping area in the Copper River area destroyed two canoes and threatened several structures and other watercraft. A Division of Forestry engine responded. City, State and volunteer firefighters responded to a two acre fire in Fairbanks, burning on the corner of the Steese and Johansen. The unattended burn pile consisted of pallets and heavy timbers. Both fires serve as a good reminder to put campfires completely out before leaving them and adhere to all permitted burning regulations. Warm weather and dry

conditions makes it easy for human-caused fires to spread. With the number of daily lightning strikes that are causing fires and requiring firefighting resources, it is especially important to prevent human-caused fires.

SMOKE

A general wind shift from the NE to the SW should occur in the next few days. With lightning-caused fires burning around the state, smoke may be persistent in the air.

The two wildland fires that contributed smoke to the interior over the weekend are the Three Lakes Fire 20 miles north of Circle City and now approximately 17,000 acres, and the Sheenjek River Fire 55 miles northeast of Fort Yukon near Twenty-Two Mile Slough and approximately 1,900 acres. Both were started by lightning in June.

NATIONAL SITUATION

Fire activity has moderated since the weekend. One large fire was reported in North Carolina. Three large fires were contained: one each in Louisiana, Montana, and Washington. The military continues to support the California firefighting effort with Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems on C-130s that are used as airtankers.

The Alaska Type 1 Incident Management Team took control of the Lime Complex in California today. The complex consists of a group of 70 fires burning in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Last night there was an overall 68% containment on the complex.

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are issued by the Alaska Division of Forestry. To obtain burn permits and information about permitted burn restrictions, please contact your local Division of Forestry office:

<i>Fairbanks Area:</i>	907-451-2626
<i>Delta Area:</i>	907-895-2106
<i>Tok Area:</i>	907-883-5134
<i>Mat-Su District:</i>	907-761-6312
<i>Kenai-Kodiak Area:</i>	907-260-4269
<i>Valdez/ Copper River Area:</i>	907-822-5536
<i>Northern Southeast Area (Skagway/ Haines):</i>	907-766-2120

For additional State of Alaska burn permit information, please visit:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>

*In Anchorage, please contact the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation Office at 267-5020.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>

- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers, Alaska Division of Forestry, and Doug Stockdale, Alaska Fire Service. Note: Fire acreage estimates frequently change due to more accurate mapping and other factors.

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